



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

MAR 25 2004

WN-16J

Timothy J. Method
Acting Assistant Commissioner
Office of Water Management
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Post Office Box 6015
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6015

Dear Mr. Method:

Thank you for your February 25, 2004, letter in which the Indiana Department of Environmental Management provided: (1) amendments to the state's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System rules for concentrated animal feeding operations, *Ind. Admin. Code* tit. 327, r. 5-4-3 and 5-4-3.1, (2) Indiana technical standards for nutrient management, and (3) a proposed NPDES general permit rule for CAFOs, *Ind. Admin. Code* tit. 327, r. 15-15. Thank you, also, for your March 23, 2004, letter in which IDEM answered our questions on the general permit.

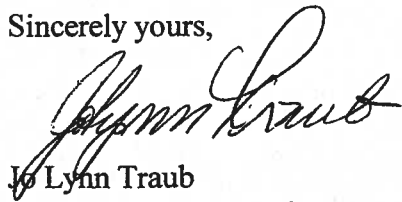
The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, has reviewed the general permit. I am pleased to inform you that we do not object to issuance of the permit.

We continue to review Indiana's NPDES rules and nutrient management technical standards for CAFOs. This includes, but is not limited to, technical standards for the times at which manure, litter, and process wastewater may be applied on land as well as standards for the maximum rate at which phosphorus may be applied on land. We are reviewing these materials as a revision to Indiana's NPDES program under 40 CFR section 123.62. We will contact you in the near future if we have any questions on the materials and, at the conclusion of the review, we anticipate notifying IDEM of our decision with respect to the revision. Given the degree to which our agencies coordinated with each other as IDEM developed the rules and standards, we expect to complete the review in the near future.

We wish IDEM every success as it works with CAFO owners and operators to prevent water pollution in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general permit. As this work unfolds, we ask IDEM to inform CAFO owners and operators that the state may need to make some adjustments after EPA reviews the state's nutrient management technical standards.

Thank you for working with us to prevent water pollution from CAFO manure, litter, and process wastewater.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jo Lynn Traub".

Jo Lynn Traub
Director, Water Division